

Jamilya at Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago - Will County Healthcare Careers—Skilled Workers, Strong Earnings

Jamilya Rudd was referred to Central States SER's Healthcare Careers, part of the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance. The day she heard about the program, she attended the information session. With prior knowledge of health information management, Jamilya was in need of a job but had not been provided with a chance. Therefore, she took full advantage of the opportunity that was presented to her and completed SER's Healthcare Bridge program.

Soon after, Jamilya was successfully able to enroll in Triton College's Certified Nursing Assistant training. By April 2012, she had passed the Illinois Certified Nursing Assistant State Board Exam. Her rapid educational advancement was followed by a job offer as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Jamilya then started reconnecting with people she had previously met in the medical field. She described her skills to them and showed her new credential. She was able to develop a relationship with someone who offered her the position she currently holds as a Medical Records Director.

The day Jamilya was hired by her current employer, her life drastically changed. Not only does she hold an important position within the company, but she is now earning a sustainable salary, which is having positive effects in her personal life. Additionally, her employer is providing her with healthcare benefits and tuition reimbursement up to \$2,500 if she chooses to continue attending college.

Within the next three years, Jamilya would like to obtain her Associates degree in Health Information Technology. She says, "I want to be a Registered Health Education Tech for the State of Illinois." With all of her success, Jamilya has not forgotten to assist those in her community. She has developed an employer relationship with Central States SER and even helped employ other participants. She now sits on the Healthcare Bridge program's advisory board.

Jamilya is a prime example of excellence. The training program SER introduced her to opened the doors of success for not only her, but also many more to follow.

**Cathy at Will County
Healthcare Careers—Skilled Workers, Strong Earnings**

Single mother Cathy Kaczmarek was laid off from her job in banking. She knew, as she was exhausting her unemployment benefits, that she needed to find a way to make a career change so she could support herself and her child. Cathy had been out of school for more than 30 years but was familiar with caregiving and encouraged to pursue a career in healthcare. When Cathy found out about the HPOG program, she was thrilled and certain that those supporting her participation in the program were angels, as she had no other way to finance her education. A good student, Cathy applied herself to her academics and created a new network of friends that supported each other as they pursued their education. Cathy completed the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course and passed her State certification exam a month later. She was hired by a local assisted living facility as a CNA. Stellar reviews from her employer reinforce and affirm Cathy's efforts and the value of the HPOG grant in providing Cathy with this opportunity.